

Pacific Commercial Advertiser

A MORNING PAPER.

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EDITOR

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THE THREATS OF THE JAPANESE.

Yesterday this paper quoted from the Nippu Jiji, organ of the Japanese wage agitators, a threatening article which might well draw a note of warning from the authorities. This article speaks bitterly of leading members of the Planters' Association by name and then urges the field hands who want more wages to "fight against those who abuse their power of money and political sway" and do so in spirit of verses which are clearly murderous. These verses are worse in the original than in the translation; but they are bad enough in English. They urge the use of the knife or the sword in settling differences; compare the cause of the wage-earners with that of the revolutionists who won the Japanese government from the Shogun; menace the Japanese leaders who are opposing the higher-wage movement and urge that lives be risked in its behalf. In Japan, the publication of such an editorial, under such circumstances, would lead to the suppression of the offending paper and the jailing of the editor. The poem and the sentiments used in applying it would be accepted both by the police and by that murderous clan, the soshi, as an incitement to fanatical violence; and there is no reason to give them a different interpretation here.

Some of the Japanese editors, notably the editor of the Jiji, have before confounded liberty and license, in the conduct of newspapers, but in the present instance they have ventured very near the abyss. The press is freer in America than anywhere else; it may go further in the direct expression of its views about persons and policies than can even the press of Great Britain. But there are now other limits than those made by the law of libel, which were laid down in the decision of the late Judge Gary of Chicago, by which not only the anarchists who killed policemen with bombs were hanged, but the editor who incited them to their homicidal acts, though doing so in guarded language, was hanged also. No threats were made by the anarchist editor of Chicago, which went further than those penned by the editor of the Jiji. Comparing the sentiments expressed in Japanese here and those expressed in German or English in Chicago and there is neither difference of kind nor of degree; and we are very sure that if assassination should follow the articles in the Jiji, either of plantation men or of Japanese who oppose a policy of force, the Chicago precedent would be followed. In other words, the editor of the offending paper would find himself included among those who stood indicted on a capital charge. The dragnet of the law would inevitably take in all concerned, directly or indirectly, with a policy of redressing wrongs, real or fancied, by private and homicidal vengeance. Free as the American press is, it can not safely urge violence or sedition nor escape the consequence of such infractions of the criminal law as may be traced to its editorial counsel.

We may as well take this chance to say that Japanese laborers have much to lose and nothing to gain by this wage agitation, even apart from the question raised by the Jiji's threats. That is because their cause, as stated by the labor agitators, has no merit. It is not true that the established rate of wage in the sugar fields is \$18. That sum is paid only to the lowest class of unskilled coolies, the kind that are content with \$6.50 a month at home. Nor is it true that the \$18 wage involves suffering; because a large portion of it, remaining as a surplus, is sent away every month, after the laborer has paid his living expenses and had his pleasures, as gifts to the folks at home. Between \$6 and \$7 per month supports a Japanese laborer at a plantation Oriental boarding house; and there is always a chance for him, by doing better work, to get more pay. His condition is infinitely higher than it ever was or probably ever will be at home; and it can not be improved by demanding more pay than he earns. He may improve his income by showing more energy and expertness in the field; he may even get a chance to raise cane on shares; but the planters, in their own defence, will not let him have the right to set and reset the wage scale whenever he feels that he wants more money and without reference to what his labor is worth. The people whose capital is invested will continue to run the business; and if the coolies object to that, it will simply remove all local objections to the importation of European labor through the United States, and in the end the Japanese, to keep from being starved out, will be ready to work for anything they can get. Is it not best for them to let well enough alone?

THE MILITARY AND THE BEACH.

The rumor has again started that the War Department may take all the Waikiki beach land between its present holdings and the stream which divides the Seaside from the Moana Hotel property; and it is said that while no orders have been actually given to purchase or condemn these lots, a commission has the matter in hand and is more likely to issue such orders than not.

If this property were needed or wanted for the location of batteries, the Advertiser would know the futility of objecting. In such things the military should have its way. But we are told that the object of this proposed extension is to pleasantly quarter troops; and on that point Honolulu feels that it would like to be heard.

Honolulu wishes the garrison comfort and good luck, but it hopes at the same time to have no obstacle put in the way of its free access to the favorite bathing beach; and it would be glad to preserve, as far as possible, the old conditions there. The city is willing to share its beach privileges with the troops, but it knows that, if the property mentioned is put within military bounds, the troops could not share their beach privileges with the citizens. A camp is a close corporation. Honoluluans are inquiring if it will not be possible to find ample room and a pleasant location for the troops without confiscating so much property which is not only endeared to them by old associations but has its very special bearing upon the health of the community?

There is beach enough now in the hands of the army to provide all the bathing the troops need. The men themselves can remove the coral and get a sand footing, just as was done for the Seaside and neighboring beaches, in years past, by convict labor. Back of this property, or near it, is plenty of land for garrison purposes, some of which the government has already signified its purpose to fill in. This land would serve the troops admirably; its improvement would add to the beauties of the Waikiki section; and there would remain the fine old beach beyond the McCandless site for the enjoyment of the people whose money, labor and taste made it what it is—a beach which would be open to soldier and civilian alike and monopolized by neither.

Ten years ago Honolulu surrendered the site of its beautiful marine park to the Navy—a place which still remains at a standstill—and did it cheerfully. It gave up a splendid tract on Punchbowl, for the same purpose, and has never seen anything done with it—but it still keeps cheerful. It smiled amiably when a tract of land which could be made to yield a million dollars a year in pineapples was preferred for cavalry horses to run on, over land that would not be good for much else. Honolulu is still smiling. It will look sweet even if the whole beach is taken by the defenders of the soil; but it wishes, down deep in its heart, that the civil and military authorities could get together and, by a system of give and take, make a fair division of the choice spots.

The story that "discrepancies" have been found in Mr. Stayton's accounts may mean much or little as events shall shape themselves. But he is still entitled to the benefit of the doubt. As a usual thing, after the holiday business of the postoffice, small discrepancies show up all around, but they are generally straightened out and rarely lead to a charge of personal dishonesty. It is fair to say that those nearest Mr. Stayton, his fellow-workers and personal friends, do not believe he has stolen a cent from the government. They say he was overworked and worried about the trouble a near friend of his had got into while employed in a Maui postoffice, and he was trying to find out, by opening official letters, what was doing in that case. It was an unlawful act, and Mr. Stayton must pay the penalty. But the offence, as stated, falls far short of that of which the young assistant postmaster has, through current rumor only, been accused.

The rumor from Washington, now twice received, that Delegate Kuhio will recommend John Lane for postmaster, calls public notice to the fact that he is a signer for Pratt. The latter included in the bound volume of testimonials from leading officials and citizens here recommending him for another term in the postoffice, an out-and-out endorsement from the Delegate. In view of this it may be difficult for Kuhio to do all for Senator Lane that he, as a warm personal and political friend of that gentleman, might wish. Certainly, if Kuhio has recommended both men, he has left the department free to act as

it may choose; and what would be more natural, under such circumstances, than for the Postmaster-General to go by the rule that one good term deserves another.

The case of Dr. Atcherley is pitiable, and it would be a mercy to put him out of the way of noxious drugs until he has a chance to lose his appetite for them. To free him would start him at a swifter pace down the hill of degeneracy and expose his fancied enemies to murderous harm. What Dr. Atcherley needs is restraint, kindness and a doctor's care. After a year or two of this treatment he might become useful again.

Ten to one that there will be no effort made to find out what particular lawyer did Isou's work during and before fleet week. Does the public observe how the attack on the Twelve Dollar Club is subsidizing?

A new stunt! Come to Honolulu, buy goods on credit, undersell the market, pocket the proceeds and levitate. A swindler could never have done a thing like that in Hawaii's good old passport days.

It has been a gentle and beneficial kona so far, and seems to have proved a godsend to the Nuuanu reservoir.

WILL NOT PRESS FOR LAND RETURN

(Continued from Page One.)

to their interests to secure the chance of competing with outside interests.

Second Federal Judge.

The Governor states that the prospects are bright for the passage of the bill providing for a second Federal judge in this Territory. Judge Dole has been simply overwhelmed with work for some years past. There are a number of local lawyers and judges whose names have been mentioned in connection with this appointment, which would carry with it a good salary.

The bill for remunerating the Territory in the sum of \$23,000 for light-house expenses has already passed the House, and will probably soon pass the Senate. This money and the payment of the \$30,000 Cotton judgment will joggle up the Territorial coffers considerably.

Governor Frear is making a strenuous effort to secure the same transportation facilities for teachers of Hawaii this year as were furnished on the U. S. Army transports last summer. This means a great deal to the pedagogues and pedagogues of the Territory, inasmuch as their fare to the Coast is charged at the rate of one dollar per day only.

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